Description of Organization

Second Sunday exists as a support organization created to assist the collective growth of gay, bisexual and transgendered Men of African descent through educational, social, spiritual and cultural activities. To that end, the Second Sunday is dedicated to (1) promote pride, unity and strength by empowering and uplifting the collective consciousness of gay, bisexual and Transgendered Men of African descent; (2) transcend oppressive barriers and labels maintained by dominant cultural institutions and; (3) facilitate economic opportunities for African-descended men to prosper and contribute to community development.

Gay, bisexual and transgendered men of African descent face special challenges as members of a national culture that embraces racism, homophobia, classism and other forms of oppression. As black men, we are impacted both daily and historically by white supremacist doctrine and intricate systems of discrimination, brutalization, and exclusion. American society-at-large often undervalues our lives and our achievements. The white gay community often subscribes to the same racist attitude and behavior and has historically excluded black gays and lesbians from its vision of political liberation as well as the movement(s) to achieve that end. Although several organizations have made strides in inclusionary efforts, black gays and lesbians have not accessed a highly visible role in the American gay liberation movement. In Atlanta, the gay community is highly segregated socially, economically and politically even though some progress has been made on the political front.

As black men who are gay, bisexual and/or transgendered, we are often ostracized from society-at-large and particularly the African-American community. Although we comprise many of the laborers, teachers, doctors, artists, parents, and divas of that community, we are usually shunned by dint of our sexual orientation.

These two dynamics of oppression often overlap and mirror each other confining black gay men in a disabling vortex of disdain and exclusion. There is a high level of shame, silence and self-hatred among black gay men which thrives in our culture. Despite a growing number of activists, the majority of Atlantan black gay men maintain silence and tacit acceptance of these imposed limitations.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has had a disproportionately heavy impact on African-American men who have sex with men. More than 30% of the AIDS cases among African-Americans in Georgia are men who have sex with men. While HIV infection rates among white men who have sex with men have decreased, the infection rates of black men who have sex with men have remained high (53% in 1993). There is an urgent need for primary and secondary intervention among this population group in Atlanta. Such efforts can only be effective in the context of safe, ono-judgmental, and well-organized settings.

In October 1992, Second Sunday was created to address these issues and begin a communal healing process. We began as a small group of men (under 10) who started meeting in members' homes every second Sunday of the month to hold rap sessions. The discussion topics ranged from "Relationship Building 101" through "How To Become Politically Involved" to "Dating in the HIV/AIDS Era." The common denominator among these topics was their relevance to black gay men.

Our growth over the past four years has been phenomenal, our membership has grown to over 125 men. We have emerged as Atlanta's largest organization of its kind, a safe, fun, supportive space for black gay men to fellowship and discuss our most important concerns. We have recently implemented a formal leadership structure to manage the group more effectively. We have allocated a regular meeting place (Virginia Highlands Baptist Church through the Unity Fellowship Church) to accommodate our expanded ranks. This year, we have added to our repertoire social activities and fundraising events. In an effort to increase our outreach capacity, we have begun advertising in local print media.

Second Sunday is proud to have established a formal relationship with the Young African-American Men's Study (YAAMS Project). We will add valuable input to the Study's assessment and intervention activities targeting black men who have sex with men. A Second Sunday representative has been chosen to attend YAAMS meetings and relay information about this population. We have signed agreements with AIDS Education and Services for Minorities (AESM) and AID Atlanta's African American Gay Outreach program to have safer sex parties and other joint activities involving primary intervention. We have also had joint meetings with our local sister organization, Zami, a social/support group for black lesbians in Atlanta.

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Request

The leadership of Second Sunday realizes the organization's potential capacity as an educational/empowering resource for black gay men in Atlanta. We have planned an educational/skills-building project that will address a range of needs and concerns. The project consists of a series of six workshops throughout the year which will be scheduled outside of the general monthly meeting. The workshops will address the following topics: "HIV/AIDS -- It's Impact On Black Men Who Have Sex With Men"; "Exploring Our Sexuality"; "Healthy Relationships"; "Activism 101"; "Mentoring Our Black Gay Youth"; and "Professional Networking."

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This workshop series was designed as an educational service for black gay men in Atlanta. We believe that comprehensive educational activities will play a crucial role in the healing and empowerment of this community. The workshops address a myriad of issues that influence the

different aspects (social, psychological, communal, sexual, political and professional) of our lives in an organized fashion. It is important that such information-sharing is developed and facilitated by and among black gay men. These activities will be tailor-made for this constituency. We will be able to take advantage of the trust level we have already established in the community as a viable support institution.

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Evaluation

This workshop series will be evaluated by the Young African-American Men's Study. A staff member from the Study will attend each of the workshops and report on the outcomes. Representatives from Second Sunday will meet with YAAMS staff to discuss the evaluation. In addition evaluation forms will be filled out and submitted by workshop attendants.

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Organizational Structure

Second Sunday recently (April 1996) ushered in a formal leadership structure. We have an Executive Committee consisting of four (4) elected officers: two (2) co-chairpersons, secretary, and treasurer.

* **The Executive Committee** is responsible for ensuring that the mission of Second Sunday is executed. This Committee oversees the activities of the Steering Committee.

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1996 Budget

Budget for the period: April 1, 1996 to March 31, 1997

Expenses:		Revenues:	
Item	**Amount**	**Sources**	**Amount**
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Total Expenses	$2324.00	Total Expenses	$2620.00
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